



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ SLP(CrI.) No. 1979/2026)

JHARILAL MAHTO

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

WITH

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ SLP(CrI.) No. 3199/2026)

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2026
(@ SLP(CrI.) No. 4148/2026)

O R D E R

SLP(CrI.) No. 1979/2026 & SLP(CrI.) No. 3199/2026:

1. Leave granted.
2. The appellants - Jharilal Mahto and Manoj Kumar Choudhary have been arraigned as an accused in

connection with Special NIA Case No.5/2018, RC Case No.19/2018/NIA/DLI arising out of P.S. Dumri (Giridih) Case No.26/2018 for the offences punishable under Sections 141, 121-A, 124-A, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Sections 25(1AA), 25(1B)(a), 26 and 35 of the Arms Act, 1959, Sections 3 and 4 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, Section 17 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 as well as Sections 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

3. Admittedly, the appellant - Jharilal Mahto has been under incarceration for about 7 years and 9 months and the appellant - Manoj Kumar Choudhary has been under incarceration for nearly 6 years.
4. We have been informed that the defence witnesses are yet to be examined. Needless to state that the appellants must cooperate with the conduct and completion of the trial, particularly, when the prosecution witnesses have already been examined.
5. Accordingly, we are setting aside the impugned orders, purely, on the ground of period of incarceration undergone by the appellants with a

direction to the Trial Court to complete the examination of defence witnesses within a period of three months.

6. In such view of the matter, the impugned orders stand set aside, and the appellants are granted bail, subject to the terms and conditions that may be imposed by the concerned Trial Court.
7. The appeals are allowed, accordingly.
8. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

SLP(Crl.) No. 4148/2026:

1. Leave granted.
2. The appellant - Manoj Kumar Choudhary has been arraigned as an accused in connection with Special NIA Case No.06/2018, RC Case No.21/2018/NIA/DLI arising out of P.S. Dumri (Giridih) Case No.06/2018 for the offences punishable under Sections 120-B and 386 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Section 17 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 as well as Sections 13, 17, 18, 20, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
3. In view of the order passed in SLP(Crl.) No.

1979/2026 and SLP(Crl.) No. 3199/2026, we are inclined to set aside the impugned order on the same ground of prolonged incarceration undergone by the appellant for nearly 6 years with a direction to the Trial Court to complete the examination of defence witnesses within a period of three months.

4. Accordingly, the impugned order stands set aside and the appellant is granted bail, subject to the terms and conditions that may be imposed by the concerned Trial Court.
5. The appeal is allowed accordingly.
6. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.
[M.M. SUNDRESH]

.....J.
[PRASANNA B. VARALE]

NEW DELHI;
10th APRIL, 2026

ITEM NO.7

COURT NO.5

SECTION II-A

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No(s). 1979/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order
dated 25-04-2025 in CA(DB) No. 1090/2023 passed
by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi]

JHARILAL MAHTO

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

WITH

SLP(Crl) No. 3199/2026 (II-A)

SLP(Crl) No. 4148/2026 (II-A)

IA No. 71563/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF
THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No. 71564/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 71562/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 10-04-2026 This petition was called on for
hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANNA B. VARALE

For Petitioner(s) Ms. Aakriti Priya, Adv.
Mr. Balaji Srinivasan, AOR
Ms. Kanishka Singh, Adv.
Mr. K. Shiva, Adv.

Mr. Amit Pawan, AOR
Mr. Hassan Zubair Waris, Adv.
Ms. Shivangi Singh Rawat, Adv.
Mr. Suchit Singh Rawat, Adv.
Ms. Aastha Shrestha, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. S.D. Sanjay, A.S.G. (NP)
Mr. Udit Dedhiya, Adv.

Ms. Astha Singh, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Udupa, Adv.
Mr. Vatsal Joshi, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. Anujsrinivas Udupa, Adv.
Mr. Vatsal Joshi, Adv.
Mr. A.K. Sharma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made
the following

O R D E R

Leave granted.

The appeals are allowed in terms of the
signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand
disposed of.

(SWETA BALODI) (AVGV RAMU)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS COURT MASTER (NSH)
(Signed order is placed on the file)